

# California Medical Association



## NOTICES AND REPORTS

### *CMA Acts on "Medicare"*

*THE COUNCIL of the California Medical Association at its meeting August 7, 1965, took two important steps bearing on Public Law 89-97, generally known as the "Medicare Law." One was a statement of policy and the other was creation of a Task Force to represent the CMA's position in whatever actions are taken in the state government of California or in the Federal Government to carry out the provisions of the new legislation.*

#### THE STATEMENT OF POLICY

1. That the California Medical Association reaffirms its position of endeavoring to assure provision of the highest quality of medical care to all citizens of California.

2. That the California Medical Association, recognizing that the Social Security Amendments of 1965 (Public Law 89-97) is now the law of the United States, offers to meet with agencies of government, institutional providers of care, carriers and other interested parties to assure that implementation of the law—through intent and regulation—will be in the best interests of the highest possible quality of medical care for our patients.

3. That the California Medical Association inform its members, component societies, and the people of this State that as an organization it has neither the right nor the authority to dictate to the individual practicing physician what action he should take with respect to providing medical care under the regulations of Public Law 89-97. Each physician-member of this Association must decide for himself.

4. That the California Medical Association consider diligently the impact of Public Law 89-97 on patient care in coming months and years; and where regulations are imposed which are not in keeping with sound medical practice, the Association will forcefully pursue corrective action, through regulatory changes and/or legislative modifications.

5. That the California Medical Association proposes again to the California State Legislature that State implementation of the new public assistance provisions of Public Law 89-97 contain prepayment mechanisms for all categorical aid programs and that physicians and providers of service be compensated on a "usual, customary and reasonable" basis.

6. That the California Medical Association recommends to the State Legislature that financial benefits accruing to county hospitals through federal matching funds for medical uses in the implementation of Title XIX of Public Law 89-97 in California be used for medical purposes and not diverted into other channels.

7. That the California Medical Association publicize this series of policy statements—through all appropriate channels of communication—to the people of California; to state and federal governmental personnel (both in the executive and legislative branches); to the American Medical Association and its constituent state societies; and to the membership of the California Medical Association.

## THE TASK FORCE

The CMA Task Force on Public Law 89-97 was given authority—

(a) To meet with various agencies of state and federal government, prepayment organizations and insurance carriers, other providers of service, and interested parties to assure that Medicine's points of view are forcefully and persuasively presented.

(b) To ask various existing Commissions and Committees to study in depth specific problems and recommend constructive implementation of the law.

(c) To conduct a positively-oriented public and legislative campaign to insure inclusion of the prepayment mechanism and other CMA House of Delegates directions in whatever California legislation is proposed to implement the public assistance provisions of Public Law 89-97.

(d) To work for a maximum of local administration and control and a minimum of centralization.

(e) To bring recommendations to the CMA Council for corrective action—legislative or regulatory—when patient care is threatened.

### The Task Force Personnel

The Council approved the following personnel for the Task Force: Ralph C. Teall, Chairman, Sacramento; James C. MacLaggan, San Diego; Bert L. Halter, San Francisco; Roger Isenhour, San Diego; Albert G. Miller, San Mateo; Malcolm C. Todd, Long Beach; Milo A. Youel, San Diego; Dan O. Kilroy, Sacramento; Samuel R. Sherman, San Francisco; John A. Bullis, Los Angeles; Richard S. Wilbur, Palo Alto; Joseph F. Boyle, Los Angeles; Henry V. Eastman, Tustin; H. Dean Hoskins, Oakland, and Donald C. Harrington, Stockton.

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## Council Meeting Minutes

*Tentative Draft: Minutes of 513th Meeting of the Council, Los Angeles, Airport Marina, August 7, 1965.*

The meeting was called to order by chairman Anderson in the Airport Marina, Los Angeles International Airport, on Saturday, August 7, 1965, at 10:00 a.m.

### Roll Call

Present were President Teall, President-Elect MacLaggan, Speaker Quinn, Vice-Speaker Telford and Councilors Wilson, Melone, Todd, Taw, Bullock, O'Connor, Rogers, Burnett, R. S. Wilbur, Miller, Fenlon, Kay, Yant, Grunigen and Past President Doyle.

Absent for cause, Editor Dwight L. Wilbur, Secretary Hosmer, Councilors Isenhour, Gooel, Ham, Maguire, Watts, Kaiser and Shaw.

A quorum present and acting.

Present by invitation were Messrs. Thomas, Clancy, Collins, Whelan, Klutch, Clark, Moreillon, Eberlein, Edwards, Bowman, Goldman and Blackley, Doctor Miller, Mmes. Griffith and Redfern and Miss Price of CMA staff; Messrs. Read, Salisbury and Brown of the Public Health League; county executives Scheuber of Alameda-Contra Costa, Rideout of Butte-Glenn, Geisert of Kern, Baker and Rosenthal of Los Angeles, Blankfort of Marin, Colvin of Monterey, Bannister of Orange, Walters of Riverside, Dochterman of Sacramento, Burris of San Diego, Neick of San Francisco, Wood of San Mateo, Marvin of Santa Barbara, Donovan of Santa Clara and Bruce of Tulare; Mr. Paul Ward, Administrator of Health and Welfare Agency; Doctor Malcolm Merrill, Director of the Department of Public Health; J. M. Wedemeyer, Director of the State Department of Social Welfare and Doctor Lester McDonald; Mr. Robert B. Radl of the State Department of Employment, Doctor Robert T. Hewitt of the State Department of Mental Hygiene; Doctors William H. Thompson and T. Eric Reynolds and Messrs. Paolini, Humbert, Heller, Bentley and Babb of California Physicians' Service; Robert Thomas of the California Hospital Association, Doctor William Steinmetz of the California Veterinary Medical Associ-